

APR 09 2002

# THE BAPTIST Record

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

## Training weekend equips disaster vols

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

So wrote the screenwriter of 2001's motion picture hit, *Pearl Harbor*. The line was spoken by Jimmy Doolittle, leader of the raid on Tokyo after the attack on the Pacific Fleet. Whether or not Doolittle actually spoke these words, they could aptly apply to those participating in the disaster relief training and update held at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko on March 22-23.

members and chaplains were offered concurrently. Since the national tragedy of September 11, the need for competent, trained chaplains is greater than ever. Paul Cassibry, a member of First Church, Clinton, and John Vess led the session dealing with those needs. "People would see our caps or name badges, and they would just naturally come and tell us their stories," Cassibry said.

"The uniform [the easily identifiable yellow jacket and logo] was a cue that we were on a different kind of mission," Cassibry continued. "Being from Mississippi was a real plus. People couldn't believe we'd come all that way."

"Opportunities were everywhere if you had an ear to hear," said Vess. "We learned to take it easy, because of the many emotional highs and lows."

"The key was to begin with people where they were, not where you were," Cassibry said.

Mickey Caison, the North American Mission Board's national coordinator of Southern Baptist disaster relief, briefed the conferees on the new relationships between Southern Baptists and other agencies such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

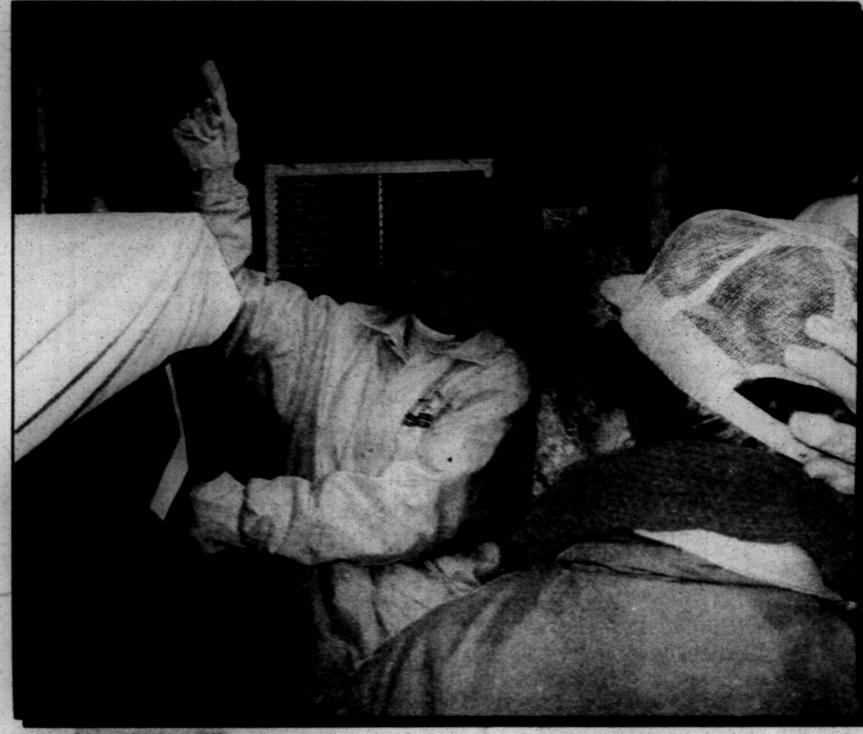
While the relationship between the Red Cross and Southern Baptists has been in place for several years, new bonds were forged between Southern Baptists and the Salvation Army.

Southern Baptists are recognized for their expertise in food service, and at Ground Zero in New York City they were able to work with Salvation Army feeding units in preparing and serving hot meals to rescue and recovery personnel. In many disasters around the country, the Red Cross is able to provide food, while the

nator of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief with the North American Mission Board, updates Disaster Relief training attendees at Central Hills Retreat. (Photo by Tony Martin)

### NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Mickey Caison, national coordinator of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief with the North American Mission Board, updates Disaster Relief training attendees at Central Hills Retreat. (Photo by Tony Martin)



SLEEPING QUARTERS — Kay Cassibry, Executive Director-Treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, explains the bunking arrangements in the disaster relief truck during training for disaster relief at Central Hills Retreat. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Caison, in his update on lessons learned at Ground Zero, stated, "The New York City mayor's office told us, 'You Southern Baptists are different. You ask us, 'What can we do to help?' Other organizations come in and say, 'Here's what we're going to do, here's how we're going to do it, and here's what you've got to do to make it happen.' Your attitude is great."

Many Mississippi disaster relief ministries were previewed during the weekend. In addition to food service, Mississippi Baptists are now able to offer chainsaw work; child-care; ham radio operations; and new equipment for cooking.

According to Didlake, the Task Force's self-contained eight-wheeler is being equipped with high-speed convection ovens to rapidly prepare frozen entrees to be served along with the

traditional canned vegetables and fruits.

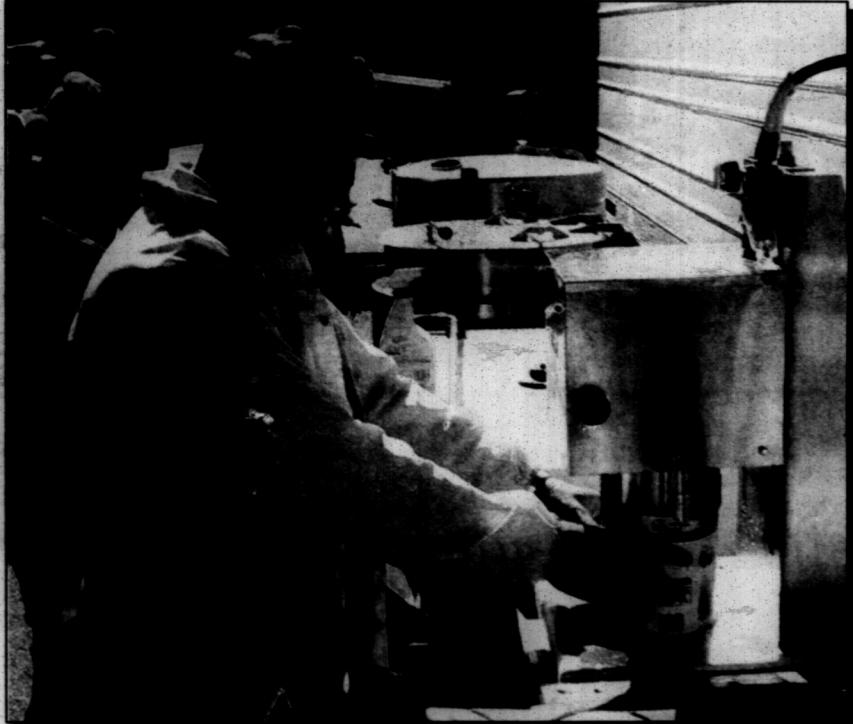
New Task Force members got a brief taste of on-the-job-training. At 6 a.m. on Saturday, with the temperature slightly below freezing, they were given the hands-on opportunity to set up the feeding unit truck.

The bulk of the truck's trailer contained food, condiments, serving utensils, plates, napkins, cutlery — everything needed to feed thousands of people at a disaster site. Welded iron tables, 70,000 BTU propane burners and tanks, and heavy-duty commercial cooking equipment were set up right outside the trailer.

The trailer also contains a refrigerator and freezer, a ham radio station, a work desk, a full bathroom, and four bunks. The unit is powered by a 30 kw generator and carries several other smaller generators. The truck also carries 250 gallons of water.

There were many items unfamiliar to the typical home kitchen. A tilt skillet, steam kettles, and one frightening-looking air operated can opener made the ease and speed of food preparation and service possible.

For more information on the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at (601) 292-2334 or toll free (800) 748-1651, ext. 334.



CAN HANDLING — Associational Missions Director Archie Herrin of Columbia opens a king-sized can of peaches using an air-operated can opener at the disaster relief training weekend at Central Hills Retreat on March 22-23. (Photo by Tony Martin)

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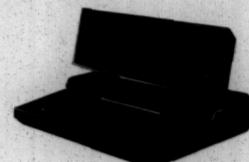
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**I**t's Easter, the time of our risen Lord, but one wouldn't know it on the brink of what promises to be a radical new era in human history. One region of the world, famous for its land disputes and armed conflicts since time immemorial, engages in yet another round of diplomatic insults and skirmishes that could lead to full-scale war. On the other side of the world, murderous men plan surprise attacks and talk of world domination on behalf of the false god they worship.

Even as advances in almost every field of endeavor from entertainment to medicine seem to outpace society's ability to keep up, dark clouds of evil seem to be closing in on the populace. Christian persecution seems never higher. Despots and their henchmen keep far too much of humanity in chains and starvation to achieve their political ends. One senses that many more men, women, and children will die before we snap out of our torpor — if we ever do.

Yet the Christians of 1935 awoke on that Easter Sunday, like so many Easter Sundays before, with the assurance that the Savior is risen.

Did you think the above text was a description of today, instead of 1935? Such an assumption would be easy to make. Like 1935, the world today is in turmoil; conflict in an important part of the world is flaring once again; and evil men seek to do people harm in the name of their religion.

In 1935, the region on the verge of war was Europe; today it is the Middle East. In 1935, the Japanese were devising plans to dominate the Pacific and subjugate its people; today it is Muslim extremists who call for world war to force all people to bow before Allah. Madmen like Iraq's Saddam Hussein and North Korea's Kim Il Jong often make good on their promises to destroy anyone who gets in the way of their lust for power.

The world appears to once again be in bad shape — possibly beyond recovery.

## Serving a risen Lord

Yet this coming Sunday, just like the same Sunday in 935 or 1935 or 2935, we can know our Lord and Savior is risen. Worldly concerns will be with us always, but the fact remains that he is risen. We may endure persecution for our faith, but he is risen. We may encounter personal tragedy, but he is still risen.

Absolutely no event or circumstance in the world can alter the fact that Jesus is risen. Would that we believed that simple statement as unshakably as those followers who discovered his open tomb.

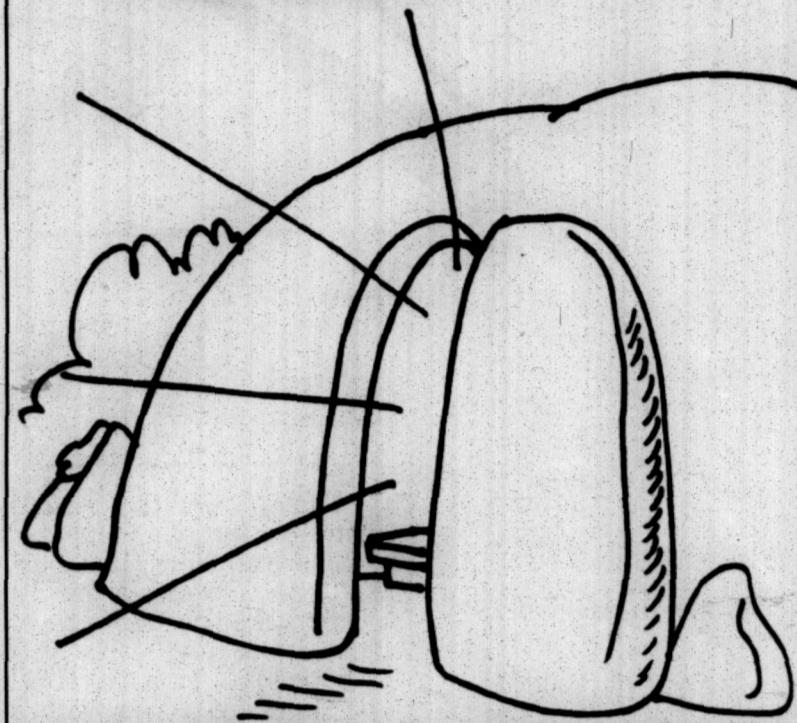
Would that we had the fervor of those early Christians to take our Lord's Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) to a lost world — regarding the cost of doing so as insignificant when compared to the victory they knew was in their future.

For many of us, modern Christianity is cost-free. We will attend our comfortable sunrise services on Easter Sunday, while Christians on Indonesia's Ambon Island flee for their lives before a well-equipped army of foreign Muslim jihad fighters.

We will sing multiple verses of the Easter anthem, *He Arose*, in our climate-controlled churches, while Christian Sudanese families are forcibly broken up and the members sold into slavery around the Arab world.

Tragedies all, but none changes the fact that Jesus is risen. It is time, however, for American Christians — for Mississippi Baptists — to realize how fat and happy

**THE TOMB WHERE JESUS LAY IS NOW EMPTY.**



and insulated from the real world we have become. All over the world, people are risking their lives to accept the Gospel. Many have already paid the ultimate price for sharing Jesus with a lost world.

Those of us who can take the Gospel to that lost world, should do so without hesitation. Those who cannot go should be willing to pray without ceasing and give sacrificially.

God is good. Even in the last decade or so, he has opened doors most of us find hard to believe. As a result, an ever-expanding area of the world is hungry for the salvation found in Christ and Christ alone.

Many generations in the 2000 years before us faced similar challenges, and they were found faithful.

Will the same be said of us?

## GUEST OPINION:



### *At Easter, a portrait of God's love*

By Claude Thomas, pastor  
First Church, Euless, Texas

givenness not only removes our guilt but it also restores our dignity.

♦ God's love celebrates. The Lord is happy and wants to celebrate journey toward him. If the father in the parable is a portrait of God's love, then we see that God celebrates with us in steps of repentance, obedience, and faith.

These three dimensions paint a portrait of God's love: limitless, forgiving, and celebratory.

When we learn to embrace the limitless, forgiving, and celebratory love of God, he will begin to change our hearts and our lives. God's love will penetrate our families as we begin to model our love after his. As we live lives of repentance, obedience, and faith, God will celebrate over us. Divine love does not have to be an enigma. We can experience it today. Embrace the portrait of God's love that Jesus paints in the parable of the prodigal son.

As we do, our families will discover great love that lasts.

runs to meet him. After an emotional reunion, the father forgives all and restores both his son's position in the family and his dignity. The father throws a party for the son "who was dead and is now alive."

While the party is going on, however, we catch a glimpse of the oldest son who is coming in from the fields. The oldest son, who has stayed at home and dutifully fulfilled his responsibilities to his family, catches a servant heading to the party. He asks the servant, "What is going on?" The servant replies, "Your brother is back home! Your father threw a party for his return from the depths of disaster!" The oldest son is incensed. After all, his father never threw a party for him! He has served faithfully all his life, and his father never gave him a little goat, much less the

prize fatted calf, to feast on with his friends! He determined that he would not attend the party.

The father meets the elder son, pleading and begging him to attend the celebration. "Child, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It's right that we should be glad and celebrate, because your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

The parable depicts humanity as the children and God as the father. From this portrait, we see three aspects of God's divine love:

♦ God's love is limitless. No matter if we rebel against God in our actions or rebel against him in our hearts, God looks for our decision to return to him.

♦ God's love forgives. As we return to him, God, in his love, completely forgives us. His for-

*Editor's note: Claude Thomas, a regular columnist for **Baptist Press**, is the father of Eric Thomas, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg. Claude Thomas also serves as chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.*

# New missionaries commissioned in Mo.

**RAYTOWN, Mo.** (BP) — A missionary's usefulness to God is a matter of obedience, not ability, a new Southern Baptist missionary testified during a March 17 appointment service in Raytown, Mo.

"When God first called me to missions, I said, 'I'm a mom. I'm a wife. I homeschool and make macaroni and cheese for a living. ...God, how can you use me?'" said the new worker, who will serve with her husband in a country where Christians are a tiny minority. (Their names and region of service are being withheld for security reasons.)

Taking the good news of God's love to people who have never heard is a privilege bestowed by God — and leading them to Christ is the greatest thrill a Christian can ever know, International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin told the 58 new missionaries.

An estimated 2,700 people filled the sanctuary of First Church in Raytown the evening of March 17 to participate in the appointment of those new overseas workers. The church choir and orchestra raised the anthem of the evening, Go Light Your World.

As the new missionaries talked about how God called them to the privilege of overseas missionary service, one theme emerged repeatedly: God deeply desires all the world's people groups to know him — and he wants Christians to share that passion and obey his call to take gospel light into a dark world.

The massive death toll after a catastrophic earthquake in Turkey shocked that awareness into one of the new workers.

"As I watched the newscasts and saw the numbers of dead climbing — 10,000, 20,000, 40,000 — I wondered how



**NEW MISSIONARIES** — A near-capacity crowd of about 2,700 fills the sanctuary of First Baptist Church in Raytown, Mo., March 17 to participate in the appointment of 58 new International Mission Board workers. (Photo by Sandy King)

many of those people had never heard the name Jesus," said the Georgia native, who will serve where people have little or no access to the gospel. (His name and region of service is being withheld for security reasons.)

"After a sleepless night, I knew God wanted us to be part of his work to make himself known among the peoples of this world."

Another new missionary said God used her traumatic childhood to help her understand how badly unreached people groups need Christians to reach out to them.

"Coming from a broken and abusive home, feeling unwanted and forgotten, God brought people into my life to shower me with his love," said Wanda Forshee, a Michigan native who will serve with her husband Terry in eastern Africa.

"They walked me down the Roman Road. They mentored me and... set my heart's desire on overseas missions so I could go and share God's overwhelming love with other lost, forgotten, and unwanted people."

Another missionary said he came to understand the urgency of missions through Baptist campus ministry.

"During college, I became a Christian through the ministry of Baptist Student Union," said Darrell Hathcock, a Mississippi native who is headed with his wife Kimberly for service in Europe. "There I was continually challenged to share my faith and be involved in missions. Since then, God has continued to show me the urgency with which the Gospel must be shared."

Judy Jetton, a native of DeSoto, Mo., who will serve with her husband Bill in southern Africa, said she is finally responding to a missions call she has felt since childhood.

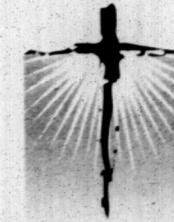
Girls in Action, a children's missions program, "planted in my heart a love and desire for missions," she said. "Then, three years ago, at the evangelism conference here in Missouri, I heard about an 83-year-old woman who was on the mission field. It was then that God spoke to me and said I wasn't too old, even at the age of 50."

Speaking to the new workers, Rankin said, "It's always

thrilling to hear testimonies such as yours, how God has called you out of a diversity of backgrounds... out of the business world, computer technician, Hollywood media, fireman, schoolteacher, homemaker making macaroni and cheese — because God has a place for you to light a dark world."

He recalled the testimony missionary Tom Thurman gave when a church in south Mississippi honored Thurman and his wife, Gloria, for 32 years of overseas service.

"Over these 32 years in Bangladesh, we've experienced earthquakes, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, three robberies, one stabbing, four broken bones, 291 nationwide strikes that paralyzed our economy, and 186 flat tires," Thurman said. "We have struggled with a difficult language, coped with electrical blackouts, and Gloria



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

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contracted leprosy and suffered bouts of hepatitis — but we have nothing but gratitude and praise to God that one day he tapped us on the shoulder and said, 'I've got a place for you.' We came to this country because of the lost millions, and we walked with God, and we have nothing but joy in our hearts."

Missionary service is an honor, not a chore, Rankin said, and even great hardship pales in contrast with the joy of being the first one to tell people about forgiveness and salvation in Christ.

"God in his mercy is giving you the privilege of carrying the light of the Gospel," he said.

## Looking back

10 years ago

The Board of Trustees for Clarke College in Newton, meeting in their regular March session, vote that the two-year college affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention should cease to operate after the close of the current academic term which concludes in May.

20 years ago

Evangelist Billy Graham decides to preach in Moscow in May at the invitation of Patriarch Pimen, primate of the Russian Orthodox Church, and leaders of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the United Soviet Socialist Republics.

50 years ago

According to W.G. Mize, superintendent of the Mississippi Baptist Orphanage, "This is the egg season. If your supply is abundant at this time we would be glad for you to share some of them with our children. ... (If) you don't have an empty egg crate, let us know and we shall be glad to send you one."

## Trustees endorse affirmation

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), meeting March 14-15 in Kansas City, Mo., roundly endorsed President Jerry Rankin's request that missionaries affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM). Rankin told the trustees he was alarmed and appalled that critics of his request appear to value irresponsible freedom and cultural compromise over the lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture. Baptist distinctives like the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church are sound doctrine only when church and believer recognize the authority of God's Word, he said. The revision of the BFM in 2000 makes it appropriate for missionaries to update that affirmation. Rankin said he was alarmed that some Southern Baptist activists "would advocate freedom to the point of supplanting the lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of God's infallible Word and that missionaries should not be doctrinally accountable to their sending and supporting churches." IMB trustees adopted a motion to affirm Rankin's letter to the missionaries on a standing vote, with one opposed.

# Wehmeyer to speak at journalism conference

## Collins crusade set to begin on April 7

An area-wide Crusade in Collins with evangelist Harold Hunter of Jacksonville, Fla., will begin at 7 p.m. on April 7 at Collins Industrial Park on Highway 49 North. Hunter, former pastor of North Jacksonville (Fla.) Church, will be joined by worship leaders Gary and Kathy Miller of Lebanon, Tenn. The Millers will lead a 125-voice choir of local singers. The public is invited to attend.



**Hunter**

The Crusade is being organized and directed by Christ for the World, Inc., of Orlando, Fla., which was founded by the late E.J. Daniels. A number of area Baptist churches are helping host the crusade. Crusade director is John Bos, an evangelistic keyboard artist who will perform nightly along with the other musicians.

Free childcare is available nightly at the crusade location for children through the age of five. Transportation will also be provided for people who request it before 4 p.m. each day by calling (601) 765-6536, or (601) 765-4673.

A Pizza Blast for middle school and high school students will be held at 6 p.m. on April 11 at the crusade location. The Pizza Blast is free of charge, but tickets which will be distributed at the crusade and by students at schools will be required for admittance.

Pre-crusade choir rehearsals with Gary Miller will begin at 5:30 p.m. on April 7 and at 6:15 p.m. on April 8-11.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Peggy Wehmeyer, who became the first correspondent to report for a major network on religious and spiritual issues, will be one of four keynote speakers for the second annual Baptist Press National Student Journalism Conference in Nashville, on Oct. 10-12.

Wehmeyer, who covered religion for ABC News and reported for World News Tonight With Peter Jennings and 20/20, was assigned to cover the annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). She will join a team of evangelical Christian journalists to lead the conference from The Washington Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, National Public Radio, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Philadelphia Inquirer, the SBC North American Mission Board, and the SBC International Mission Board.

"I am excited about the opportunity we are creating for students to come together for skill building workshops, networking, and spiritual encouragement as journalists," said Will Hall, vice president for news services for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and executive editor of Baptist Press. "The program of events and the lineup of journalists we have put together are outstanding."

The three-day conference will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, and workshops led by some of the nation's top evangelical Christian journalists, photojournalists, and broadcasters, Hall said.

"This conference will be a great opportunity for Baptist student journalists to network with Christian journalists working in both religious and secular media," Hall said. "We want to let our Baptist students know that you can be a Christian and be a successful journalist, too."

Last year's conference featured more than 170 journalism participants from across the nation.

"I was very pleased with the successful launch of this annual convocation last year and we are shaping up a great time of fellowship and professional development for this year," Hall said. "We have added tracks for public relations and literary magazine, and journalists from some of the top media outlets in the country will be part of our faculty."

Before joining ABC News, Wehmeyer covered religious and social issues for WFAA in Dallas. She had previously served as director of public information at Dallas Theological Seminary, where she studied.

She graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin.

"One of my greatest passions is to inspire young men and women of faith to be on the cutting edge in the secular media," Wehmeyer said.

Joining Wehmeyer as keynote speakers are Don Boykin, deputy managing editor of The Atlanta Journal-The Atlanta Constitution; Gary Fong, director of editorial graphics technology for The San Francisco Chronicle and Pulitzer Prize board member; and Lawrence Smith, vice president for communication at Southern Seminary and former news director at WHAS, Louisville, Ky.

Workshop leaders include Julia Duin, The Washington Times; Judi Christi, editor, The Shreveport Times; Sterling Chen, features design editor, The Philadelphia Inquirer; William Perkins, editor, The Baptist Record; Lynn Clayton, editor, The Baptist Message; Matthew Melton, chair, Dept. of Communication, Lee University; Kathy Dean, University of Mobile; Fred Jackson, American Family Radio; Dan Howell, WDSI FOX 61, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Colleen Rudy, deputy press secretary for the mayor of San Diego; Steve Massey, Idaho editor, The Spokesman-Review; Michael Laney, Lee University; Scott Couch, WTVF, Nashville; Daniel Brown, SBC Executive Committee;

Jackie Marlushka, director of public relations for Provident Music; Ted Olsen, Christianity Today Online; Jim Veneman, Union University; Gibbs Frazeur, North American Mission Board; Bill Bangham, International Mission Board; and Morris Abernathy, freelance photojournalist.

The conference will be held at the Southern Baptist Convention building in downtown Nashville, Hall said.

Workshop tracks will be held in the categories of print journalism, broadcast journalism, design, photography, literary magazine, and public relations.

A new track has been developed for journalism professors and faculty advisors. The Faculty Advisor College will be hosted by Norton, dean of the school of journalism at the University of Nebraska.

Norton is a former chairman of the journalism department at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

In addition to the conference, Hall announced the second annual Baptist Press Excellence in Journalism Contest. The contest is open to all Baptist college and university student newspapers, yearbooks and student newspaper websites. The contest will recognize individual achievement in student writing and will be judged by a panel of professional journalists.



**Wehmeyer**

plans are underway for the 2002 President's Award for Excellence in Student Journalism. The award will be presented by Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. The award is given to a student who has shown sustained excellence in scholastic journalism.

In 2001 the award was presented to Dale Peacock of Houston Baptist University, and Jessica Webb of Gardner-Webb University.

Registration for the conference is \$55 per person and includes conference fees, opening night reception, dessert fellowship, and the Excellence in Journalism banquet.

For additional information or to register for the conference, call Todd Starnes at (615) 782-8615.

## Recruiting underway for Ukraine Partnership mission trips

Mississippi Baptists are currently involved in a multi-year partnership project with Baptists in the country of Ukraine, through the Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). The department is recruiting Mississippi Baptists for a variety of mission trips to Ukraine scheduled in 2002. Cost is \$1,315 per person, round trip from Jackson. Scheduled mission trips include:

- May 15-25 — New church starts (two teams).
- May 25-June 3 — Construction.
- May 25-June 3 — Ladies Conference.
- June 7-16 — Vacation Bible Schools (two teams).
- July 5-14 — Sports Evangelism Clinic and Rally.
- July 5-14 — New church start in Shariavovo.
- July 26-August 4 — Vacation Bible School.
- August 23-September 1 — New church start.
- August 23-September 1 — Construction.
- August 30-September 10 — New church starts (two teams).
- September 20-October 1 — New church starts (two teams).
- October 4-14 — Medical (two teams)

"If you are not able to participate, we would appreciate your prayers for the volunteers who will be participating in these projects," said Ken Rhodes, director of the Partnership Missions Department.

For more information, contact the Partnership Missions Department at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3239 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 239. E-mail: [khodes@mbcb.org](mailto:khodes@mbcb.org).

In 2001 more than 100 awards were presented to student journalists in honor of their work. Baylor University won first place in the best overall newspaper category, Ouachita Baptist University won first place in the best overall yearbook category, Cumberland College won first place for best overall broadcast, and Gardner-Webb University won first place in best overall on-line newspaper.

A call for entries and registration for the conference will be in April.

Hall also said

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# Grenades kill, injure Pakistan church goers

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (BP) — Five people were killed and more than 40 worshipers were injured when an attacker hurled two grenades into a crowded evangelical Christian church. At least four Southern Baptists were among those injured in the March 17 blast.

President Bush called the incident at Protestant International Church a terrorist attack and pledged to work with the Pakistani government to bring the person who launched the attack to justice.

In a prepared statement, he condemned the "acts of murder that cannot be tolerated by any person of conscience nor justified by any cause."

"I am outraged by the terrorist attack that took place in Islamabad, Pakistan, against innocent civilians," he said.

It was the second attack on a Christian church in the region since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Witnesses said the attacker entered the church during the final moments of the sermon and hurled two grenades into the middle of the auditorium.

Jim Killgore, a former pastor of the church and now the president of an inter-denominational missions agency, told Baptist Press he received e-mail correspondence from one worshiper who saw the attacker enter and knew what was happening.

"He jumped behind a piano and called the Embassy as the attack was being



**TERRORIST CARNAGE** — Pakistani officials walk through debris left after a terrorist hurled a grenade into the sanctuary of Protestant International Church in Islamabad. (Photo by Agence France-Presse)

launched," Killgore said. "Like many Americans, we have the emergency number to the Embassy preprogrammed into our cell phones. This guy did some quick thinking. As the attack was happening, emergency vehicles were en route to the church."

Protestant International Church is an evangelical, nondenominational fellowship popular with many foreigners living in Islamabad, including Americans.

Mark Wentworth, a spokesman for the American Embassy in Islamabad, told Baptist Press that in addition to the two American fatalities, 10 were also wounded.

"This was a popular church that many of our people attended," Wentworth said. "This has been a very difficult time for us."

Killed in the blasts were Barbara Green, a U.S. Embassy official, and her daughter, Kristen Wormsley, age 17. Green's husband, Milton, and their son, Zack, were injured in the attack.

The injured Southern Baptists include Jeff and Cindy Womble and their six-and-a-half year old son from Brandon, Fla.; and a woman who asked not to be identified. At least seven Southern Baptists were worshiping inside the church when the attack happened.

Cindy Womble suffered a broken leg and her son suffered head injuries from shrapnel. The unidentified woman sustained minor glass and shrapnel wounds. The unidentified woman's husband was not injured. However, one of the fatalities died in his arms on the way to a local hospital, according to the unidentified man's father.

The Womble boy is in serious condition at an Islamabad hospital with head and internal injuries. He was sitting between his parents, Jeff and Cindy, when the attack occurred. Jeff Womble told The Los Angeles Times that his son was blown two rows back by the force of the explosion.

## EASTER'S UNENDING STORY

There is an old children's fable that tells the story of a king who loved stories. The one thing he did not like about the stories was that they always came to an end.

So, the king put out the call for someone to tell a story that never ended. There was a stir across the kingdom as all of the storytellers and jesters tried to come up with the perfect story that never would end.

One after another they made their way before the king and there they would begin to tell their stories.

While typically most of the stories only lasted for minutes, maybe a few hours, now they stretched stories into days. Yet, without exception, each one of them finally came to an end.

One of the storytellers thought that he had come up with the perfect unending tale; it went on one week, two weeks, into the third week, and then it came to an end. The king was so disappointed because it appeared that no one would be able to satisfy his request.

One day a little lone storyteller from out in the far reaches of the kingdom came prepared to tell his story that never would end. Everyone was skeptical, even the king, but the storyteller was given his chance.

"Once upon a time," the storyteller began, "there was a farmer. The farmer owned thousands of acres and had abundant crops, especially wheat. At harvest time hundreds of his workers went out into the field to gather the ripe grain and the farmer filled his huge barns with bushels and bushels of wheat."



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

As wintertime arrived, a little ant was out scurrying around searching for something to eat and low and behold he found a small, tiny opening into the barn. The ant made his way in and got one small grain of wheat and carried it back to the ant bed.

'Where did you get that?' all of the other ants asked and he said, 'Come and I'll show you.' So he led another ant into the little opening that led into the huge barn and another ant got another small grain and carried it back to the ant home. Then another ant came, got another grain of wheat and carried it back. Then another ant came, got one small grain of wheat and carried it back. Then another ant came and got another small grain of wheat and carried it back."

Day after day the storyteller told of another ant that came and got another grain of wheat. Weeks turned into months and months into seasons until finally the king had heard all he could stand and he stopped the storyteller, declaring indeed he had found a story that never ended.

This week, around the world, Christians celebrate the unending story of Easter. It is a story that deserves being told and retold with enthusiasm, passion, and glory, for indeed it is the most amazing few days in

human history. What is this story? It is the account of God among us at Easter.

• **It is the story of Jesus on the cross.** The cross — an instrument of torture and execution. It was devised for the worst of enemies and the vilest of criminals. It was a slow, agonizing, and indescribable death and God's Son, Jesus, died on the cross just for you and me.

He did not have to die. He did not have to go to the cross. He did not have to get involved with our dilemma of sin.

Jesus could have opted out, walked away, and left us doomed. Glory be to God, he looked at us and saw something worth saving.

He saw what maybe no one else could see in you and me. He saw and was willing to pay a price for what maybe no one else could love.

At the cross, God took all of my sins and laid them on Jesus and when he died, he took my death, my penalty, and my sin curse.

• **It is the story of the tomb that lost.** From Adam onward, the march of humanity had been toward the grave and the grave had always won. Once it captured its victim, that was the end — the tomb of Jesus lost! The grave could not hold him! The resurrection of Jesus announced a change of direction.

For a while, everyone was moving toward the tomb. Now, every believer is prepared to move beyond the tomb. It was our Lord Jesus who said, "Because I live, you shall live also."

He came out of the tomb and has arranged for us to be delivered from its grip. One day the trumpet will sound! One day a shout from Heaven will come and for all of eternity we will celebrate the tomb that lost!

• **Finally, it is the story of the Devil that got the toss.** That's right — Satan, who thought he could step above and beyond God himself, got tossed from his self-appointed position of importance. The devil should have known it was coming, for every encounter he had with Jesus ended in his defeat.

This time, when Satan brought Jesus to the cross, he thought he had won. God's ultimate, redemptive act had ended in failure, as Jesus took his last breath and the hope of all mankind was shattered, but no, no, no! The devil thought he had ruined all of us. What he was trying to impose on us, happened to him — he was defeated! I certainly know he is alive and well and trying to wreak havoc in our day and time, but Jesus, then and now, brings victory!

Why is this truly the story that never ends? Because you and I are just the latest new chapters to be written. Even this week there are new chapters of lives changed, of Jesus' triumph of Easter celebration. Tell the story and enjoy the celebration as new events are being recorded in the unending story of Easter.

## NAMB offers telephone training

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention will offer training conferences April 8-9 for Mississippi Baptists interested in participating in the agency's telephone evangelism program. Participants in the program will provide a Christian witness by receiving calls at their homes from Mississippi and across the country, placed by people who want to hear the Gospel.

The training conferences will be held April 8 at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and on April 9 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. Participants at both locations can choose a conference start time of either 2 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

For more information on the Jackson conferences, contact Colonial Heights Church at (601) 956-5000. For more information on the Tupelo conferences, contact Harrisburg Church at (662) 842-6917.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**GAs of Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg**, exceeded their goal of raising \$400 for World Hunger to help the people in Africa.



**GAs of Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg**

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)** — Charles L. Quarles, Baptist college professor and International Mission Board-appointed missionary/theological educator to Romania, has been named associate professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS).

Quarles spent the last three years as a career missionary and theological education team leader for the International Mission Board in Bucharest, Romania, where he most recently served as associate professor of New Testament and Greek at the Bucharest Seminary and University of Bucharest.

For over 10 years, Quarles served as pastor in churches in Tennessee and Mississippi, most recently as senior pastor of Hickory Ridge Church in Memphis, where his church was recognized for exceptionally high number of baptisms in 1996 by the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector. In 1989, The Baptist Record recognized Concord Church in Bruce, where he pastored, as the fourth fastest growing church in Mississippi.

**WMU of Oktibbeha County** held a special occasion on Jan. 22 with First Church, Starkville, hosting the event. "Women from the surrounding area counties were invited to attend this special time, 'A Day of Inspiration with Dr. Edna Ellison,'" said Grace Howell, WMU director. Ellison is the former Women on Mission consultant of Mississippi WMU and retired from National WMU in Birmingham, Ala., and now living in South Carolina.

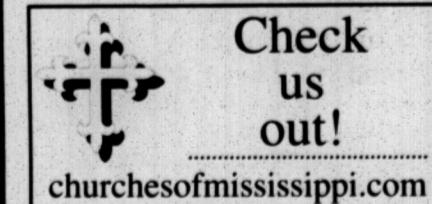
**Antioch Church, Columbus**, will present Beyond The Cross, Sunday, April 14 at 11 a.m.

**Leaf River Church, Pineville**, will have its Easter Sonrise Cantata on March 31, at 6 a.m.

**Gunter Road Church, Florence**, will present its Easter musical, March 31 at 9 a.m. Gene Jordan is pastor.

**Lakeshore Church, Jackson**, will host Sam Gore of Mississippi College Arts Department, March 31 beginning at 7 p.m. Gore will sculpt the head of Christ. Joe Crout is pastor. For additional information, call the church at (601) 373-6677.

**The sanctuary choir and drama team of Byram Church, Terry Road, Jackson**, will present its Easter musical, The Unvanquished One, March 31 at 10:30 a.m. Brenda Quattlebaum is minister of music. Roy Maine is pastor.



**Homecoming activities** for Clarke College will begin at 8:30 a.m., April 20, at Calvary Church, Newton. Lunch tickets are \$10. For additional information, call Sara Fox at (601) 774-5274. Send reservations to Clarke College Alumni Association, P.O. Box 493, Newton, MS 39345.

**The Day He Wore My Crown** will be presented by the adult choir of Wesson Church, Wesson, March 28, 29, and March 31. For more information, call the church at (601) 643-5722.

**Trinity Church, Pearl**, will celebrate its 30th anniversary on April 7 at 11 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be held in fellowship hall. Guest speakers are Kenny Goff and J. C. Renfroe and the Antiques. Clay Moss is interim pastor.

**Gospel Sing** with the Professors, the Magnolia Boys, and Broken Vessel will be held at Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, March 29 at 7 p.m. For further information, call Danny R. Shows at (601) 583-2106.

**The second annual Harry Eskew Sacred Harp Sing** will be held April 13 at the Sellers Music Building on the campus of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). This event begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. The group will break for a covered dish lunch; participants should bring a covered-dish item to share. Singers will be using The Sacred

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**North Columbia Church, Columbia**, honored Harold Stamps with special recognition on Feb. 10 for 40 years of service in the deacon ministry. The church presented him a plaque during the morning service. Pictured (from left) are Stamps and Mike Grenn, pastor.

**GAs and RAs from Damascus Church, Flora**, recently joined forces with each other to promote a special Valentine Mission Project for the Baptist Children's Village (BCV). The children collected stuffed ani-



**Stamps and Grenn**

mals and made gift baskets with candy and delivered them to the less fortunate children at the BCV.



**GAs and RAs from Damascus Church, Flora**

**Gulf Coast Baptist Association**  
presents

**Surprising Insights from the  
Unchurched and Proven Ways  
to Reach Them**

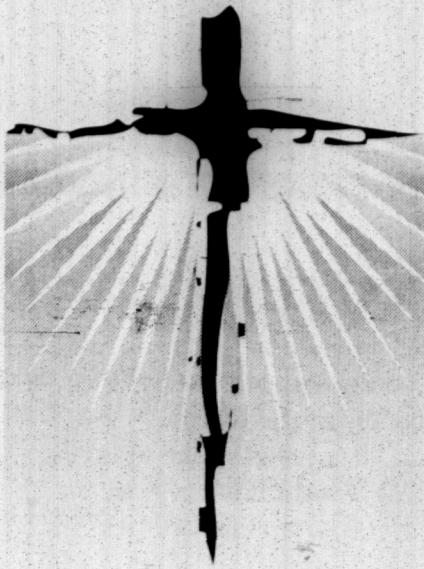
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Dean of the Billy Graham School of  
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\$10 per person, registration required.

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

# Partnership Missions

SPRING 2002



VOL. III, NO. 1

◆ PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS DEPARTMENT ◆ P.O. BOX 530, JACKSON, MS 39205-0530 ◆ PHONE (601) 292-3398 ◆ FAX (601) 292-3390 ◆ E-MAIL KRHODES@MBGB.ORG

## BSU director Ivy ready to serve on short notice

By Tim Nicholas, writer  
Communication Services

PURPOSE:  
TO PROVIDE AN  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
VOLUNTEERS  
TO USE THEIR SKILLS  
TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST  
THROUGH MISSION  
PARTNERSHIPS.

Karen Ivy isn't accustomed to making long-term plans. "I've never been good at making a five- or ten-year plan because I don't know where God is going to take me next," she said.

As of today, "next" is Southeast Asia. Ivy, Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Holmes Community College (HCC), Goodman, will be student mobilization assistant for two months this summer.

That mouthful of a title means that the Aberdeen native will assist in orientation of student summer missionaries who will work in five Southeast Asian countries.

Orientation for the student missionaries includes teaching the basics of living in a foreign culture, dealing with culture shock, and understanding what is polite and acceptable. Then Ivy will work in Singapore e-mailing the students, checking on them regularly.

Ivy has had experience. While a student at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she "practically majored in BSU," Ivy was a summer missionary for two summers - doing beach ministries at Fort Myers Beach, Fla., and leading Vacation Bible Schools in the Sierra Foothills Association of California.

After college, Ivy spent two years in Mali's capital city of Bamako. There, serving as a Journeyman for the International Mission Board, she directed a center where English, French, and sewing were taught. There was a sports program and a library at the center, also.

Though the national language of Mali is French, Karen had to learn a local dialect.

After Ivy had served in Mali for 18 months, a new missionary family came to the country needing a home schooling teacher for their four kids. She taught them for her last six months in Mali.

Back home after her Journeyman years, Karen thought she would be working in her major, exercise science. She had already secured a job in that field when Jerry Merriman, director of the Collegiate Ministries Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, phoned to see if she was interested in directing the BSU at HCC in Goodman.

"At first I was apprehensive and told him I wasn't interested," she said, but the call came before her daily quiet time.

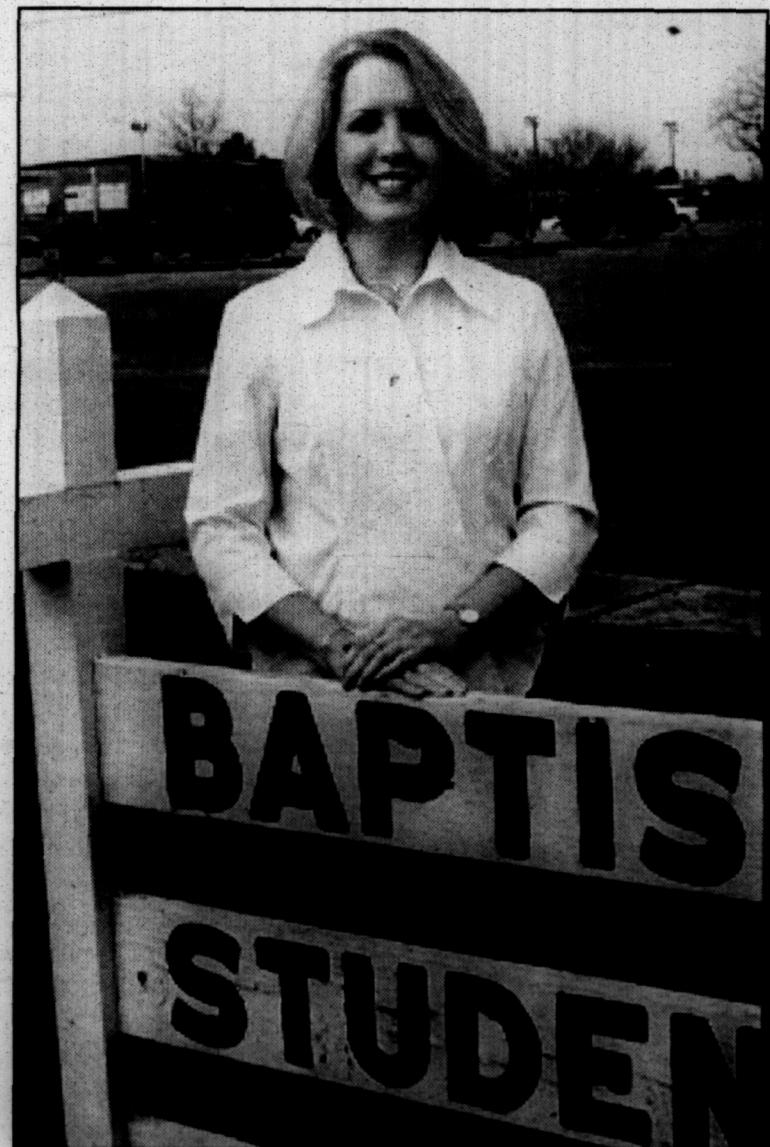
"God spoke to me - 'you remember the last six months in Mali you were praying to me to drop an opportunity in your lap if that was possible?' - he said, 'Hello, that was it.'"

Ivy called Merriman right back and shortly had the job. That was three years ago.

Meanwhile, she has had three semesters of seminary extension through New

Orleans Seminary, doing course work at Mississippi College, Clinton.

"God calls me into one thing at a time," said Karen. "I didn't know I was going to be a BSU director until about



Ready to serve - Karen Ivy, Holmes County Community College Baptist Student Union director, will be student mobilization assistant for two months this summer in Southeast Asia. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

two weeks before I was one. I didn't know I was going to be a missionary for two years in a foreign country until about six months before I was one."

Ivy added, "I'm a firm believer if God gives you opportunities to share him around the world, then take 'em."

"That's the way I hope to be the rest of my life. I will always take those opportunities without hesitation."

### Partnership Missions Celebration

First Baptist Church, Jackson  
November 15, 2002  
Baptist Building, November 16, 2002

Celebration banquet  
Partnership displays  
Testimonies  
Fieldside coordinator reports  
Fellowship  
Mission speakers

Please mark your calendar and plan to join the celebration of what the Lord is doing through mission volunteers.

*"...last year alone Mississippi Baptists volunteered to serve in over 30 countries and 37 states.."*

*— Ken Rhodes, director  
MBCB Partnership  
Missions Department*

I have sensed a movement of God upon Mississippi Baptist churches in calling out hundreds of volunteers. These volunteers will give one week to several months doing various types of ministries literally worldwide.

We know that last year alone Mississippi Baptists volunteered to serve in over 30 countries and 37 states. These are only the ones we know about.

Southern Baptists cannot put enough career folks on the field to reach all unreached people groups and unreached cities. Yet, there are thousands of believers from various backgrounds traveling all over the world. The challenge is: as you go share Jesus.

Furthermore, it is possible to have a church, a cluster of churches, or an association to link up with every unreached

people group or unreached city. Many of these linkages will be for prayer purposes — which, by the way, is the greatest need.

In many of these linkages, the beginning will be prayer. However, following God's opening of doors and giving the know-how, the linkages will provide unparalleled opportunities for bringing the kingdom to the nations.

A new paradigm in missions is for a church to engage a people group and/or city where you can't publicize the results or write glowing reports in newspapers, but you will have "the glow," the good feeling of

knowing you've carried the light to darkest corners of the world.

Jesus spoke of laying treasure up in heaven. Perhaps faithfulness in being committed world Christians is writing a story that can ultimately only be told in heaven around the throne before the Lamb with a countless number from all nations, tribes, people, and languages (note Rev. 7:9).

These are those who followed the Lamb because a Mississippi church carried light to a dark corner and only heaven can tell!



**By Ken Rhodes**  
Director  
Partnership Missions  
Department  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

## Prayer gives results

*By Clay Moss, consultant  
MBCB Partnership Missions Department*

### Praise the Lord!

Today there are 13 new believers in a certain city. Just south of this city, Kim had a vision during childbirth. In the vision, a white robed man said: "Just as you are giving birth, I want to give you new birth."

Kim asked her husband, a believer, what the vision meant. Kim is now a part of the kingdom of God.

Meanwhile, Ralph and his boys, who were also led to the Lord by Kim's husband, are having weekly Bible studies with 130 of their fellow villagers.

Why are the stories significant? They are significant because they are taking place in a closed Muslim country very close to Afghanistan.

Just a few weeks ago, there were fewer than five known believers in the entire people group of over 20 million. God is on the move!

Why is that important to us? Mississippians have prayer walked in the very areas in which these activities are taking place.

The events of Sept. 11 were not a signal for us to hunker down in fear. They were a clear signal that there is no time like the present for ministry among Islamic people groups. Muslims are open to the Gospel like never before.

In Jonah 1, Jonah himself had all sorts of excuses and reasons for not wanting to go to Nineveh as God requested. God took pretty drastic measures to "encourage" Jonah to change his mind.

Are you another Jonah, or, will you be obedient when God calls you to go somewhere difficult for a couple of weeks in order to further his kingdom and make a difference? Volunteer missions opportunities to the Muslim world are on the horizon.

Stay tuned.



## The legacy of Miss. Baptists

*By Paul Harrell, consultant  
MBCB Partnership Missions Department*

Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, a reporter asked Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, Ill., to respond to this devastating event. He labeled his comments "Courage Under Fire."

Hybels said, "I will never look at a firefighter the same way again. What is in someone, hundreds of them, to compel them to run into a burning building while everyone else is running out, just to save people they don't even know? Their bravery has become part of our collective national legacy. Their bravery dignifies us all."

Such dedication and commitment of these firemen could serve as a parallel for our partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Because of our missions partnership, Mississippi Baptists can never look on Maryland/Delaware the same way again.

What is in a mission volunteer, hundreds of them, to compel them to go again and again to Maryland/Delaware to witness consistently to people they do not know and have never seen?

What would cause a mission volunteer to use his own vacation time, spend his own meager resources, take time from his business and family, to spend time sharing the Gospel with the teeming multitudes in the cities and sparse population in hill and countrysides?

Their persistent determination and acts of love have become the legacy of Mississippi Baptists. For they, like Jesus, have seen the fields and they are ready for harvesting. Their acts of evangelistic outreach dignify us all.

Thank you for responding with 480 mission volunteers who comprised 48 project teams in 2001. The focus for 2002 consists of the following:

4 New Church Starts	10 Church Revitalization Teams
18 Summer Student Missionaries	50 Project Teams
5 Youth Ministry Teams to Ocean City	

There is a place for you. You, too, can be a part of the legacy Mississippi Baptists will leave to the world.

### Model English community center needs literature

Literature is needed for model English community centers in China. If you have books and magazines you would like to give to this worthy cause, please contact the Partnership Missions Department (1-800-748-1651, ext. 398) for details related to shipping instructions and type of literature needed.

Instructions must be followed exactly for getting maximum benefit.



# Prathers slated to fill summer position in Boston

By Tim Nicholas, writer  
Communication Services

J.C. Prather, former home missionary and former dairy farm owner, is headed to Boston for a three-month assignment through the Partnership Missions Department.

Prather, associational missions director for Prentiss County Baptists, and his wife, Martha will serve in Boston this summer. While there, he will likely serve as interim pastor and conduct outreach ministries, stewardship development, and deacon ministry.

Martha said she will probably work as a tutor for children, "maybe teach literacy or work with deacons' wives," she said.

Married 37 years and with grown children, the couple said they feel free to experiment with the type of work they want to do down the road.

"This is giving me the opportunity that Martha and I have talked about and dreamed about when we retire," said J.C., "going and doing interim work and relief work for pastors and associations."

Martha Prather is free to travel with her husband, paradoxically, because of health problems. A 12-year veteran first grade teacher, she had to quit teaching in January because of diabetes complications.

When J.C. told her about the opportunity to go to Boston, "I felt that if God was calling him, it'll work out and I can be useful, too," she said.

The couple met in high school in Prentiss County. She went to Blue Mountain College for home economics and elementary education degrees. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in agricultural education.

After operating a dairy farm in New Albany from 1970 to 1975, and a stint at Farm Bureau Insurance, "We accepted God's call into ministry and borrowed money on the house to go to seminary," he said.

The couple moved from New Albany, Miss., to New Albany, Ind., where he worked at Graceland Church, while attending Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

After several pastorates in Canton and Sturgis, and ministries at Carthage,

himself and Martha in Booneville. She collects antiques; he collects model tractors which he keeps in a mock-up country store behind the house.

The couple will be backed by good will and prayer support. Associational moderator Jim Holcomb, pastor of East



*On assignment* — J.C. Prather, Prentiss County associational missions director, and wife, Martha, are headed to Boston for a three-month assignment with the Partnership Missions Department. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Freeny, and Oak Hill, J. C. and Martha became home missionaries in Lee County where he was associate missions director in church and community ministries from 1990 to 1995.

In addition to working as a home missionary, J.C. has volunteered for missions assignments in Montana and Argentina.

They returned home to Prentiss County in 1996 for the missions director position.

J.C., with one assistant and a few finish workers, just built a new home for

Booneville Church, said people in the association are excited about the Prathers being able to go to Boston.

"This will open up greater opportunities for our churches to gain a greater vision of missions and personal involvement."

J.C. said the association already is "getting the vision of the Great Commission beginning here at home and going to all parts (of the world) with the Gospel."

He noted that there's already a lot of excitement in the county. "That's evident by the turnout at our discipleship rally in January with more than 800 folks there." Concerning the Prathers' extended missions trip, Holcomb added, "We see it as an investment."

**Note:** The Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board offered to missions directors and Baptist Student Union directors the opportunity to go on partnership assignments. They would volunteer for two to three months to a Mississippi partnership area; the local association or BSU would continue their salaries; and the Partnership office would pay for travel. J.C. Prather, missions director for Prentiss County, along with his wife, Martha, and Karen Ivy, BSU director at Holmes Community College (see page 1 story), responded to the offer.

*"This is giving me the opportunity that Martha and I have talked about and dreamed about when we retire..."*

— J.C. Prather  
MBCB associational missions director  
Prentiss County, MS.



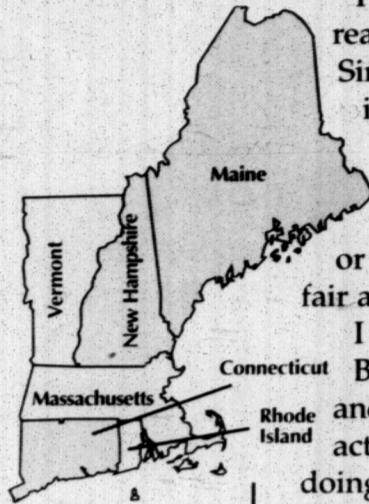
## "Zacchaeus" still seeking

Tammy Bridges (far right), Woman's Missionary Union director of New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, tells the story of Zacchaeus, who had climbed up in the sycamore tree to see Jesus, to a group of Vacation Bible School children at North Park Church near Pittsburgh, Pa. The young "Zacchaeus" in the tree is Dustin Merchant, also a member of New Zion Church and a member of the New Zion Mission team to North Park. (Photo courtesy of Norris Curry, New Zion Church)



## Miss. Baptists having impact on northeast U.S.

By Ken Lyle, consultant  
MBCB Partnership Missions Department



The headline should cause the reader to ask the "how" question. Since you have contributed to impacting the Northeast for Christ through praying and giving through the Cooperative Program and special offerings, or going there as a volunteer, it is a fair and important question.

I wish I could put all Mississippi Baptists into some giant vehicle and take you to the Northeast to actually experience what God is doing there – and from there to the uttermost parts of the earth. Since that is not doable at this time, I offer a quick written "tour" asking you to join me in praise to God for this ministry through us.

Our first stop is in Maryland where 21 new churches were birthed in 2001. In Baltimore, the Seventh Baptist Church, where Annie Armstrong was nurtured in the things of God, is being revitalized into turning the city upside down for the risen Christ!

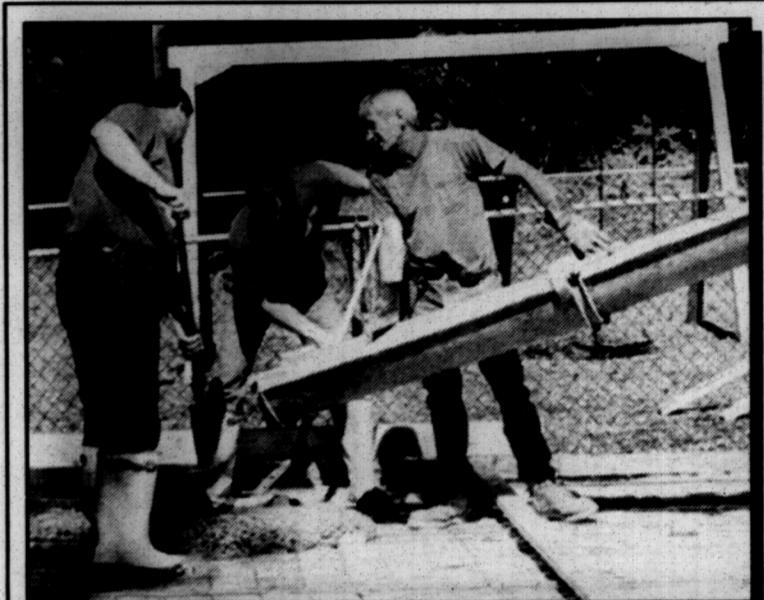
In our nation's capitol, we joined D.C. Baptists in ministry during and after Sept. 11. New Zion Church in Crystal Springs spearheaded a Christmas gift project for the Pentagon Child Care Center. Other Copiah Association churches joined the effort and many children were blessed.

We move on to Philadelphia where we encounter 5.7 million people speaking more than 70 languages. Our Mississippi collegiate and church teams are part of the strategy to reach this mega city for Christ. Rankin Association is gearing up to partner with Greater Philadelphia Baptist Association, beginning Jan. 1.

In New York City, Mississippi Disaster Relief personnel were on the scene hours after the World Trade Center buildings were destroyed. Counseling, cleaning apartments, and compassionate conversation dried the tears and washed the feet of a devastated city.

In Boston, Mississippi Baptists were at the heart of ministry, through church planting, literature and food distribution, youth ministry and much more. During 2001, 15 new churches were planted in Greater Boston and over 10,000 Jesus videos were distributed by request from Bostonians searching for God.

Can you stay with me a bit longer? There is so much more to see! I under-



Lynn Perry (left), interim pastor of North Park Church near Pittsburgh, Pa. and Carl Merchant (center), deacon at New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, help in the construction of basketball court/playground area for North Park church during the July 2001 mission trip. Merchant was one of the 15-member mission team from New Zion to North Park. (Photo courtesy of Norris Curry, New Zion Church)

stand if you can't. It's just that I would like you to also visit church planters in New Jersey, New Hampshire, upstate New York, and Rhode Island. There are multitudes of believers in the Northeast who would welcome fellowship with you.

Perhaps we can travel together again soon. In the meantime don't forget to pray for God's movement in the Northeastern United States, and, if you are called of God to go there, let me know how I can help you make the journey!

## Nolens return to Ukraine

By Ken Rhodes, director  
MBCB Partnership Missions Department

Thomas and June Nolen left Mississippi on March 11 to return to Ukraine where they again will serve as coordinators for Mississippi volunteer teams. The Nolens will provide fieldside facilitation for 21 teams. The first two teams will leave on April 5.

The Nolens served two years in Ukraine as International Service Corps workers with the International Mission Board. This is their second year as Mississippi fieldside coordinators.

During their time in Mississippi (October, 2001-March, 2002) the Nolens spoke in numerous Mississippi churches. They also assisted in recruiting volunteers and planning for their orientation needs. Many individual conferences were held with interested volunteers.

The contribution of Thomas and June Nolen to the ministry of Mississippians in Ukraine has been an invaluable part of its success.

Pray for God to give them the spiritual, emotional, and physical stamina needed for their endeavors of providing a meaningful experience for our Mississippi volunteers.

Most of all, our desire is to see Ukrainian Christians strengthened and many more reached for the kingdom.



## 350 boxes sent to Ukraine

Mark Jones (standing), pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee, watches as church members Ann Stone (left) and her daughter Danna pack one of the 150 boxes they have shipped to Ukraine since the Mississippi Baptist partnership began there in 1999. Many associations, churches, and Woman's Missionary Union groups across the state have helped provide coats, shoes, hygiene items, reading glasses, Vacation Bible School supplies and other items the churches in Ukraine can use in their ministry. This year, 350 shoe boxes have been collected with special items for the pastors' wives in Ukraine. Ann said, "I have seen God work in so many ways. I have had people come by or mail me money to help with the shipping. A discount store offered 900 pairs of glasses at their cost." (Photo courtesy of Ann Stone, Mantee Church)

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about future  
mission opportunities.  
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# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



BMC Ministerial Alumni Assn. officers

**Ministerial Alumni Association officers** of Blue Mountain College (pictured from left) are Wayne King, past president; Kenny Digby, president; Johnny Burns, president elect, and Jason Marshall, secretary-treasurer.

**Two teams represented** Mississippi College (MC) at the regional Mock Trial competition held at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., on Feb. 15 and 16. One team finished 8th overall in a field of 23 teams, earning an invitation to the national tournament to be held in St. Petersburg, Fla., April 12-14. Daniel French of Memphis, representing the other team, garnered the Best Attorney Award at the tournament. Members of the team going to the Nationals are: Eric Brown, Terry, team leader; Joseph Gill, Oxford; Cindy Childress, Yazoo City; Evan Carpenter, Long Beach; Jill Mitchell, Clinton; Ashley Allen, Clinton; and Mark Lyon, Brookhaven.



Spring Fling at BMC

**Mississippi College Naturals** will present their spectacular spring show on April 4, 5, and 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Swor Auditorium on campus. The show will consist of music from World War II, the Grand Ole Opry, and Casey Casom's Top 40 Countdown. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any member of the Naturals or by calling (601) 925-3440. On Thursday night only, tickets will be sold to students for \$5.

**Students and family members** recently attended Spring Fling at Blue Mountain College. The students attended the spring theater production, Steel Magnolias; toured the campus with President Coward; participated in question and answer sessions about admissions, financial aid, and student life; and finished up with noonday after lunch at the Baptist Student Union.

**The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team** (forensics) placed first overall at the Southern Hospitality Swing co-sponsored by Louisiana State University (LSU) and Ole Miss. The Crusader team also placed first overall at the Ole Miss section of the tournament and second at the LSU section of the tournament. Frankie Glennis, a communication major from Summit, was named the top overall competitor at the Ole Miss swing and placed first in communication analysis. She placed third in after dinner speaking and duo interpretation and fifth in extemporaneous speaking. She placed second in the Pentathlon at the LSU swing and communication analysis. Michael Wilkinson of Pascagoula placed first in informative speaking (LSU) and first in informative speaking and impromptu speaking (Ole Miss). Meagon Odom of Theodore, Ala. placed first in persuasive speaking at both the LSU and Ole Miss tournaments. Other members of the Crusader team that contributed to the overall win are Ebony Hardy of Hattiesburg; Chad Hampton of Florence; Matthew Smith of McComb; Lance Baggett of Monticello; Jessica Pinion of Florence; and Vanessa Starks of Montgomery, Ala. The forensics team placed first overall at the



Bryson, Wood, and the Byrds

University of Louisiana, Monroe tournament, held the weekend before the LSU/Ole Miss swing tournament.

**Jonathan Wood** of Orlando, Fla., a sophomore at Mississippi College (MC), is the recipient of the tenth annual Byrd Memorial Preaching Award. He won the award by submitting the sermon, A Heartfelt Cry of a Broken Man based on Psalm 51:10-12; Galatians 6:7; and Hebrews 3:15. The award memorializes David Q. Byrd Sr. and Maude Byrd, as well as their son, William Ashford Byrd, and grandson, Hal Newton Byrd. Pictured (from left) are Harold Bryson, Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at MC, Wood, Charlotte Byrd and Harrell N. Byrd.

## NOBTS to offer new MSW degree

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)** — A master of social work (MSW) degree is one of the newest degrees offered at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). The MSW degree was approved by the seminary trustees in their annual spring meeting on March 12-13.

An increasing need for Christian social workers equipped with the MSW degree has arisen as a result of the federal funding of faith-based initiatives in the Bush administration, and from an increased interest for trained professionals to serve in the Southern Baptist Convention's church-based evangelism and Christian social ministries, said NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke.

Social ministries are performed through Baptist state conventions and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) through mission centers, children's homes, homes for the aged, crisis pregnancy centers, centers for abused women and children, and Baptist hospitals. Lemke also noted that the Convention's focus on reaching people for Christ in major cities around the world has led to an increasing demand from NAMB and the International Mission Board for individuals qualified in social ministry.

NOBTS students are already able to earn the MSW degree through an articulation agreement with the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. However, many students have expressed the desire to receive their education in Christian social ministry through the seminary rather than a secular institution.

For more information about the seminary's degree offerings, contact the Office of Student Enlistment at (800) 662-9701, ext. 3303; [enlistment@nobts.edu](mailto:enlistment@nobts.edu); or [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu).

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Mark King** was licensed to the ministry on Jan. 13 at First Church, Oloh, where is currently serving as minister of music. Pictured (from left) are Ashton Barefoot, chairman of deacons; King; and Eddie Parker, interim pastor.

**Keith McGee** was ordained to the ministry Feb. 17 at Oakdale Church, Brandon. He has been called to serve as bivocational pastor of Oak Grove Church, Lake. Keith's father, Wayne McGee, a minister, preached the charge to the candidate, and Rick Henson, pastor of Oakdale Church, preached the charge to the church. Pictured (below, from left) are Wayne McGee; Keith McGee and his wife Heather; and Henson.

### Barnes chosen to direct Nev. Baptists

**RENO, Nevada (BP)** — Thane Barnes, 45, pastor of Green Valley Church in Henderson, Nev., was named the new executive director/treasurer of the Nevada Baptist Convention at the March 5 meeting of the convention's Executive Board.

Barnes graduated from Grand Canyon College (University) in 1980 and went from there to Golden Gate Baptist Seminary. He has been the pastor of three churches since seminary: West Ajo Church of Tucson, Ariz., Ken Caryl Church of Littleton, Colo., and Green Valley Church of Henderson. Each of those churches experienced considerable growth during his pastorates.



**W. McGee, K. McGee, H. McGee, and Henson**

**Mike Hudson**, minister of music and senior adults, recently completed ten years of service at Oakdale Church, Brandon. The church surprised him on Feb. 10 with gifts and a plaque. He is pictured below with his wife Cynthia and their children: Andrew, Thomas, and Mary Ruth. Rick Henson is pastor.



**The Hudsons**

**Tressie Webb**, a member of Glendale Church, Leland, received the Angel Among Us award at Wellington Place Nursing Home on Feb. 21. "Members of her church requested that the ceremony be held at Wellington Place because she had helped so many people in the nursing homes," said Gail Jones, church secretary. Mark Pilgrim is pastor of Glendale Church.



**Webb**

**Josh McCullough** was licensed to the ministry by East Louisville Church, Louisville, on March 10. A senior at Winston Academy, he plans to attend Mississippi College this fall. McCullough is available for youth and music ministry and can be contacted at (662) 773-2249. Pictured (from left) are Keith Dendy, pastor; Josh and his parents, Larry and Charlotte McCullough.



**Dendy and the McCulloughs**

## STAFF CHANGES

**First Church, Madison**, has added two people to its staff to minister to preschoolers and their families. The newest addition is Teresa Dickens, who began March 1 as minister of preschoolers and preschool families. On Jan. 1, Melanie Whittington was named director of the church's Children Center, which houses the church's weekday program for preschoolers and after school program for children.

Originally from Saucier, Dickens returns to her home state from Columbiana, Ala., where she has served as minister to preschool and children and was the communications specialist for national Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, a position she held for seven years. She has also worked on the staff of The Baptist Record. Dickens is a graduate of the



**Whittington**

University of Southern Mississippi and Southwest Seminary.

A native of Madison, Whittington was promoted to director of the Children's Center after serving 12 years as assistant director. She has been on the staff of the weekday since it opened in January 1975. Whittington attended Mississippi State University.



**Dickens**

**ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a Kindergarten/Daycare Director. Resumes may be sent to 168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS 39204.

**PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR**, Harrison County. Send resumes to: Music Search Committee, Robinwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 580, Saucier, MS 39574.

**HURLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**, Hurley, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume to: Hurley Baptist Church, P.O. Box 395, Hurley, MS 39555.

**PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH, PEARL/BRANDON**, is seeking an interim pianist who is comfortable with blended services. Experience needed/multiple services. Call (601) 969-6282.

**PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY NEEDED**: people, computer, and clerical skills required. Please send resume to 5199 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS 39232 or fax to (601) 992-4242.

**CHURCH AVERAGING 100** in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music and youth or bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

**BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH** in Potts Camp, Miss., is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational pastor. Church averages 40 in Sunday School. Please send resume to Bethany Baptist Church, P.O. Box 563, Potts Camp, MS 38569. Attn: Pulpit Committee.

**MINISTER OF STUDENTS NEEDED**. Full-time position. Send resume to: North Winona Baptist Church, 602 Alberta Drive, Winona, MS 38967 or fax to (662) 283-5004.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, minimum of ten words; maximum of fifty words. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED**.

**BALLWIN BAPTIST CHURCH** in West Saint Louis County, 25 miles from downtown, seeking full-time associate of music. Ministry will include additional responsibilities. Please send resume to: 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, Missouri 63011, ATTN: Personnel; email: ballwin@swbell.net; or fax to: (636) 227-3438.

**GROUPS FOR GREAT PASSION PLAY** packages in Eureka Springs, Arkansas (with tickets, lodging, recreation, and meals), see [www.kellersresort.com](http://www.kellersresort.com) or call (479) 253-8418.

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROSSETT, ARK.**, is seeking a full-time children's minister. Resumes may be sent to 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635.

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## CAN YOU HELP?

### Editor:

The Central Europe Missions and the South Europe Mission of the International Mission Board will jointly hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) June 26-July 7 in Hvar, Croatia, which is a beautiful resort island off the Croatian coast. It is customary for Southern Baptist volunteer teams to go from the United States to assist with missionary kids during AGMs. Unfortunately, this year's volunteer team from another state scheduled to minister in Hvar has fallen through and has thrown the mission into a panic! I wish you could hear their desperation as I have talked with them by telephone.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Partnership Missions Department has been asked to assist in putting together a new team. This will be a monumental task due to the short period of time before the AGM takes place, but we've agreed to give the effort our best shot, because we're confident Mississippi Baptists will step up to the plate.

The cost of the mission will be \$2,000 per person including all travel to and from Croatia and lodging and meals while in country. Certain supplies would have to be secured as well.

Please pray with us, and if you sense God's leading you to Croatia to fill this important missions request, please contact Ken Rhodes or Clay Moss at the Partnership Missions Office at (601) 292-3398 or toll-free (800) 748-1651, extension 398.

Clay Moss, consultant  
MBCB Partnership Missions  
Jackson

## HOECOMING SET

### Editor:

Plainway Church, Laurel, will celebrate its 52nd anniversary on April 7. Services will begin at 11 a.m. Harold Ishee, former pastor for many years, will be our guest speaker.

The homecoming committee is seeking help in locating any former members who should be invited to attend. Please direct responses to the church secretary: Earlene Hughes, Plainway Baptist Church, 1133 New Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39443.

Homecoming Committee  
Plainway Church, Laurel

## TRUST MISSIONARIES

### Editor:

Our missionaries are already required to go through an intensive screening process, which requires them to elaborate their testimony and beliefs. They make a tremendous sacrifice to obey God's call to move to other countries. Now we're asking these men and women who have served faithfully for years to show that they are doctrinally correct by signing the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M).

This whole issue, at least to me, hinges on trust. If the International Mission Board (IMB) has already commissioned these missionaries, then they ought to be allowed to serve in that capacity without wondering whether their theology is being questioned.

Even if they have been on the mission field for years, should they have disagreements with the BF&M they will need to be "counseled." That sounds ambiguous, doesn't it?

The IMB ought to be defending our missionaries instead of asking them to prove their orthodoxy. It's a sad day when we don't trust our missionaries.

Danny Chisholm, pastor  
Central Church, Meridian

## NO COMPARISON

### Editor:

As I "chisel" this letter with hammer and stone, I am still shocked by the letter of Charles Moulder in the March 7 issue of this paper. Moulder did make one accurate statement in his letter. He stated that women were tragically being discriminated upon. Many liberal groups have convinced women that God's Holy Word is not accurate when it comes to their role in the family and the church. Moulder evidently aligns himself with these liberal organizations and beliefs.

I do not believe that God's Holy Word is shopworn or ambiguous as he stated. In fact, I believe that the Scripture is the most contemporary writing ever penned. To compare the accuracy of the writings of Frank and Evelyn Stagg or anyone else with the accuracy of the Bible is, at best, ludicrous.

The difference is that man (and woman) was born in a sin nature, thus making them prone to error. God is, however, perfect, without spot or blemish. There can be, therefore, no comparison. 2 Tim. 3:16 tells us that the Holy Bible is the inspiration of God. How could it be, then, in error or shopworn and ambiguous?

There are a number of writings in the Bible that, in my human nature, I desire to disregard. However, as a born again child of God, I understand the need to accept and follow its guidelines. God's Word is without error, whether we as sinners like it or not!

Michael J. Fondren, Sr.  
Pastor, Pinckney Church  
Union

## GREAT EMPTINESS

### Editor:

When I learned of the death of Guy Henderson, editor emeritus of The Baptist Record, there was an immediate emptiness in my life. Though I knew he was ill, the sadness was heavy on my heart. Of course that sadness turned to bittersweet joy as I recalled how Guy had lived, serving the Master day by day.

As a fellow editor who served in Tennessee when Guy edited

the Record, I knew him also as a dear friend. When we attended any Baptist meeting, we looked for each other to share that special friendship. I might say I esteemed him highly, but Guy would have none of that. He did not want praise. Guy and Lois always were a lovable couple.

I know Mississippians knew him as an astute, personable, honest, straightforward editor and leader. That was only part of the man. To me, he was someone who could bring the right answer to the table of discussion, deliver the truth with clarity and strength, and honor our Lord in his total life. His wit and humor dominated any conversation.

My friend Guy was like that giant tree, which when it fell, left a great emptiness in the forest. I will miss him, but I have the many remembrances of just being with him. He was a giant in his world.

Fletcher Allen  
Franklin, Tenn.

*Editor's note: Fletcher Allen is editor emeritus of the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector in Nashville.*

## DISTURBING TREND

### Editor:

In regard to Rivercrest Church calling a woman pastor, I would like to make an observation. While I have mixed feelings on this subject (I am not the "husband of a wife," either), it is undeniably true that Baptist tradition and the beliefs of the majority of Baptists forbid this practice. Why, then, did Rivercrest Fellowship feel free to scorn such restrictions?

I think the answer lies in their very name. They are not, as I understand it, called Rivercrest Baptist Fellowship — just Rivercrest Fellowship. They chose long ago to not take the name Baptist, yet were allowed to affiliate with the denomination anyway. This is, in fact, a growing trend among new Southern Baptist works and to me is a disturbing one.

Any church which shuns even the name Baptist can hardly be counted on to observe Baptist beliefs very strictly. Is our denomination so hungry for Cooperative Program money from one more congregation that we are ready to accept "neither fish nor fowl" churches as doctrinally sound? Perhaps it is time to say, "If you're ashamed of the Baptist name, go and be non-denominational. You probably are in reality, anyway."

J.C. Brady, pastor  
Shiloh Church  
Port Gibson

## LOTTIE FILM?

### Editor:

A great evangelistic tool of world-changing effects for Americans and Chinese would result from a very professional film of Lottie Moon (Southern Baptists' first woman missionary to China). An excellent

source for this film is the Ina Roberts Lawrence story of her life. If Southern Baptists cannot afford a production company, a reprint paperback of this 1927 edition may create similar mission stirrings. No person in China ever loved that country and those people more than Lottie Moon, and viewing her life they would fall in love with Jesus behind her love.

Bill Mathis  
Hattiesburg

## THANKS FOR LOVING

### Editor:

Thank you for loving and encouraging Dad and me. You will never know how much your calls, cards, and prayers lifted us up in this time of deep grief and shock in losing our precious Eunice. Many of you were able to come, and your presence encouraged us. Just when sadness seemed to overwhelm us, one of you would call or a card would arrive. God used you to remind us that, indeed, the Lord is our strength, our rock, and our shield.

My earliest memories are of Mom and Dad's ministry among Mississippi Baptists. What wonderful experiences our family has had from the late 1940s to the present! I will always treasure those times and relationships, and I was reminded of many of them as you poured out love upon us in these recent days. Thank you.

Mom was my mentor in so many ways. She modeled complete trust in God's Word as our guide for living. She never missed a day in leading our family in reading the Bible and praying for missionaries. She gave sacrificially of her resources to missions. She reached out and touched countless lives. I was so blessed to be her daughter!

Thank you again for honoring her memory and ministry. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Charlotte Bryant Madison  
Wetumpka, Ala.

## SEARCHING FOR PHOTOS

### Editor:

First Church, Vancleave, located near the Mississippi Gulf Coast in north Jackson County, will be holding their Centennial Celebration in September of this year. The committee is trying to locate photographs of past ministers to be used for this celebration. If anyone has information on where we could locate photographs for the names listed below, please contact me by e-mail at gbr049@netzero.net, or call the church office at (228) 826-5806 and leave a message. Your help will be greatly appreciated. The names are: M.D. Boone, R.J. O'Bryan, C.C. Jones, Benjamin Ellis, L.I. Thompson, J.E. Barnes, A.G. Mosley, J.F. Sullivan, J.L. Morgan, J.F. Parker, J.A. Cothen, and Herman A. Merritt.

Rita Robinson  
Vancleave



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.*

*Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.*

*Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)*

*Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.*

*Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*

*No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.*

*When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.*

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Anticipating resurrection

1 Corinthians 15: 1-26

By Sandra Gunn

The story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is truly amazing! It is profound and exciting to think that God became man in Jesus Christ, died on the cross for man's sins, and then rose bodily from the dead.

This chapter is the earliest existing account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Written within three decades of the event, it bears powerful testimony to the resurrection as the central affirmation of the Christian faith.

Paul had presented this Gospel many times, and here he gives the Corinthians (and us) the main points he had delivered and which they had received.

He makes three vital points which are fundamental to the Gospel, and which he suggests

are "of first importance" (1 Cor. 15:3). These three are: Christ died for our sins, Christ was buried, and he was raised on the third day — all of these "according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3).

Then Paul references the various appearances of Christ. He is trying to persuade them that these first Christian disciples, apostles, and followers of Jesus had been convinced beyond any doubt that he had risen from the dead. He lists six different appearances, the last being the appearance to Paul himself.

Paul was writing to a people who had great doubts concerning the resurrection. It seems that their doubts centered more around our own bodily resurrection than around Christ's resurrection.



Gunn

The Old Testament believers had a strong faith in God, and exercised that faith until their death, but the Old Testament teaching about the resurrection was limited and incomplete.

The New Testament Christians had to contend with materialism, mystic cults, decay and disruption of the Roman Empire, the Saducean priests, and an atmosphere of skepticism and doubt even among the weaker brethren of the Corinthian church.

Paul used the argument, "if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised" (1 Cor. 15:13). He infers that everything was about Christ, all that he represented, all that he taught, all that he lived for was in jeopardy.

Who would want to follow a dead and defeated leader? Preaching would be in vain! There would be no forgiveness! We would face death without hope! We would never believe that goodness is stronger than

evil! The resurrection itself is the proof that love triumphs over evil.

Our baptism is truly a picture of the very basic belief of our faith. Baptism by immersion is symbolic of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and also of our own death to the old self, burial of that old self, and resurrection of the new self.

In Ephesians 2:8, Paul said: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." Since we cannot save ourselves, we must be saved by a power outside ourselves.

That power is God, and is manifested in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. If this is not true, then the Gospel is in vain; forgiveness is foolish; our lives end with an earthly death — never to be again; we cannot trust God or believe him.

In all the years since I've been a Christian, I have never doubted or questioned the reality of Christ's resurrection. I was taught it as a child as a solid truth, and have never believed otherwise.

In preparing for this lesson, and particularly this passage of Scripture, it was difficult for me to identify with anyone who disbelieves the resurrection of Christ, and therefore disbelieves in a bodily resurrection for us.

Life has to be lived in a different perspective for those who do not believe in eternal life. They apparently feel that since this is the only life they will have, they must live so as to get everything out of it for themselves. Their philosophy would have to either be despair, or to live it up for each moment — anyway they can.

On the other hand, to have hope for an eternal life gives an entirely different outlook for every day that we live on earth! We have fullness of life now and the promise of life beyond death with Christ. This puts joy in our hearts, and helps us to face physical death with anticipation of what is to follow.

Thank God, the resurrection is true!

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Jesus is alive

John 19:28-30, 39-42; 20:1-8

By Robin Brumfield

Here we are at Easter. Have a happy Easter! This lesson is about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The emphasis is on what God has done through Jesus Christ to make salvation available to sinners, thus challenging adults to receive the salvation God has made available to sinners through Christ or, if Christians, to thank God for the salvation they have received through Christ.

Secular people usually do not even acknowledge their sin. Even if they are aware of their sin, they respond with little more than a shrug of the shoulders. They do not recognize the danger they face.

Seekers, on the other hand, recognize that something is wrong in their lives and search for a solution. Unfortunately, many of them turn to false gods and cults, neither of which can help them. God desires that people trust Christ for salvation from their sin and express gratitude for their salvation.

Today's lesson is broken down into four parts. The first part deals with victory at last and is taken from John 19:28-30. Notice there is a difference between this "wine vinegar" (v. 29) and the drugged wine offered to and refused by Jesus just prior to the crucifixion (see Matt. 27:34 and Mark 15:23).

Let's take a closer look at



Brumfield

Jesus' final declaration, "It is finished!" in John 19:30. This is a cry of victory, and is not a cry of agony. By saying "It is finished!", Jesus is stating that he accomplished the task God had given him. Here, Jesus proclaimed he had completed what he came to earth to do. Because Jesus died for us, we have victory over sin, Satan, and even death.

The second part deals with apparent defeat and is taken from John 19:39-42. "He" in verse 39 is used to identify Joseph of Arimathea mentioned in verse 38.

Pay particular attention to the love, faith, and courage of Joseph and Nicodemus in these verses. The burial, to almost everyone in Jesus' day, meant he had been defeated, but people today know that Jesus was not defeated even though he died and was buried.

The third part deals with an important question and is taken from John 20:1-3. The dis-

ciple identified as "the other disciple, the one Jesus loved" in verse 2 is the apostle John who wrote this Gospel.

Mary Magdalene raised a question about the location of Jesus' body. The two disciples to whom she spoke did not know the answer. Like Mary, we need to seek answers to any questions we have about Jesus.

Don't ever think that your question is insignificant to God. He takes care of the sparrow, and you are worth so much more to him than the sparrow.

The fourth part deals with an expression of faith and is taken from John 20:4-8. Both Peter and John had questions when they heard Mary's declaration.

Look at John's response in the tomb. His response is one of faith in the resurrected Christ. Digging a little deeper clarifies this point. The Greek word for "saw" in verse 8 means to see with perception or understanding. John realized that Jesus had been raised from the dead and responded in faith.

Verse 9 confirms John's faith was genuine. John believed on the basis of what he saw in the tomb, not on the basis of his knowledge of the Scriptures that prophesied the Messiah's resurrection.

Such knowledge would come to John later. Did you know that the apostle John was the first to express genuine faith in the resurrection of Jesus? Thus, the appropriate response to the resurrection of Jesus is faith, and it is this faith by which we receive salvation.

Let me challenge you to make this Easter a special day. Pray that an unbeliever you know would be open to hearing the Gospel, then invite the unbeliever to church on Easter Sunday.

Explain what Christ has done in your life and ask the unbeliever to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Today's lesson title says it all: Jesus is alive!

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

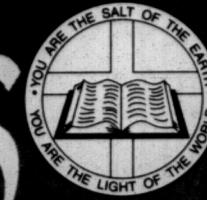
Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



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## TOBACCO: *A gateway to destruction*

By Nikki Burke, policy coordinator  
Mississippi SmokeLess States Alliance

What contributes to more deaths each year than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, murders, suicides, drugs, and fire combined? Tobacco!

It kills more than 400,000 Americans each year, making it the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.

Secondhand smoke, the smoke emitted from the end of a cigarette or the smoke exhaled from the lungs of the smoker, is the third leading cause of preventable death. It claims 53,000 nonsmokers' lives each year.



Burke

What is in tobacco that makes it so bad? Tobacco contains more than 4,000 chemicals, at least 43 of which are known to cause cancer. Among these chemicals are arsenic, acetone, cyanide, and nicotine.

Nicotine is the addictive chemical that acts as a stimulant and sedative to the central nervous system. It stimulates the user by providing a kick to the nervous system.

The nicotine from smoking a cigarette or cigar can reach the brain in seconds and remain in the body for up to 30 minutes. Once this effect is over, the user can experience depression and fatigue, requiring the smoker to need more nicotine.

When chronic smokers are deprived from smoking a cigarette they can exhibit withdrawal symptoms, such as increased anger, hostility, aggression, and loss of social cooperation much like that of a cocaine user.

Nicotine causes tobacco to be extremely addictive. Most smokers who try to quit make at least three attempts before they succeed.

Nearly 90% of today's adult smokers took their first puff before the age of 18. It is imperative that we educate both adults and youth about the dangers of tobacco use.

Tobacco is considered a gateway drug — teenagers who smoke are 16 times more likely to abuse alcohol and 11 times more likely to use illicit drugs. Knowing these numbers, parents, educators, and peers should be concerned when they see youth using tobacco.

Each day more than 5,000 youth try their first cigarette and each day more than 2,000 youth under the age of 18 become new regular, daily smokers.

To some that might not seem like many, but think about this: more than five million children under the age 18 who are alive today will die prematurely from smoking-related illnesses.

In Mississippi alone, 8,400 children under the age of 18 become new daily smokers each year. If current trends continue, nearly 56,000 Mississippi children now under the age of 18 will die from a tobacco-related illness.

In addition to tobacco use, exposure to secondhand smoke must be addressed. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies secondhand smoke as a Class A Carcinogen (cancer-causing chemical).

Because of their immature immune systems, small children are at the greatest risk. More than 15 million children are exposed to secondhand smoke at home and in other social situations. In Mississippi alone, 192,000 children are exposed to secondhand smoke at home.

Exposure to secondhand smoke increases their chances of asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, lower respiratory tract infections, and middle ear problems. This results in numerous trips to the doctor and the hospital, some of which result in death.

Only 32% of employed teenagers work in a smoke-free environment, the lowest rate of protection for any group according to the National Cancer Institute.

As a society we need to change the cultural norm. Youth view their parents, teachers, coaches, and other adults as role models; therefore the change must start with us. There are simple ways we can help educate children about the dangers of tobacco use.

First, set an example. Do not allow smoking in your home or car. It can take up to two weeks for nicotine to clear the room where someone has been smoking.

Check to see that your child's daycare and school are tobacco free. Urge local businesses and restaurants to provide a healthy environment for their workers and consumers.

Talk to your children about the dangers of drug use, including tobacco.

Mississippi leads the nation in tobacco prevention programs. By educating yourself and others about the dangers of tobacco use, you can make a difference and save a life.

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If you are interested in receiving Christian Action updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at [rwood@mbcb.org](mailto:rwood@mbcb.org). Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.

### Tobacco Use by Mississippi Youth

2001 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey

Currently, 22% of public middle school students report using tobacco, a 27% decline since 1999.

Currently, 16% of public middle school students report cigarette usage, a 30% decline since 1999.

Currently, 30% of public high school students report using tobacco, a 23% decline since 1999.

Currently, 24% of public high school students report cigarette usage, a 25% decline since 1999.

# Tuareg focus of May 19 Day of Prayer event

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The name of one unreached people group in West Africa literally means "abandoned by God." On May 19, Southern Baptists will ask God to help that people group, the Tuareg, know just how much he really loves them.

Once Tuareg camel caravans transported everything from salt to slaves across the Sahara, but now the nomadic people group follows their declining herds through barren regions of Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso in search of scarce pasture.



**THE BLUE PEOPLE** — The Tuareg often are called "The Blue People" because of the indigo color of the distinctive turbans that protect them from fierce desert winds. In the hot Saharan sun, the blue dye bleeds from the garments and stains their skin. (Photo by Sandy King)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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RLH KDUHU CG ELKDCEB  
YLWUHUT, KDNK GDNA  
ELK SU HUWUNAUT;  
EUCKDUH DCT, KDNK  
GCNA ELK SU IELME.  
AJIU KMUAWU: KML

Clue: M = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Thirteen: Thirty-Eight.

Many Tuareg have fled the ravages of drought to pitch their tents on the fringes of cities like Tombouctou, Mali.

The Tuareg face many uncertainties, not the least of which is how to survive in a world less and less hospitable to the nomad's lifestyle. One thing, however, is certain: 99.9% of the Tuareg do not know the love and forgiveness of God.

The vast majority of them have never even heard the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

That is one reason Southern Baptists will focus on the Tuareg on the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, scheduled this year for May 19.

The Tuareg's nomadic lifestyle makes it hard to accurately count them, and population estimates range anywhere from 500,000 to 3,000,000. The name identifies a collection of ethnic groups — Arabs, Berbers, and Bellas — who speak a common language, Tamashak.

The Tuareg's wandering ways also have kept them from being staunch practitioners of the Muslim religion. Because of this, their Muslim neighbors named them "Tuareg," literally "abandoned by God."

Forced from the desert by drought, the Tuareg now are learning to farm and sell crafts. A new generation is growing up and learning the softer ways of city life, but one Tuareg Christian sees these difficult circumstances as God's way of reaching his people with the Gospel.

"The drought is a way to pierce the strongholds of the people," says "Noch" (not his real name). "The droughts bring the people in from the desert. It makes the people

change, and when there is change there is an open door for the gospel. The door may only be open a crack, but it is still open."

Another Tuareg believer, "Muhammad," endures frustration and persecution to keep sharing the salvation story.

"We have Bible teachings here every day," he says, "and we try to go to different villages to tell them about Jesus. There are many who are listening and want to make decisions, but their families and villages will not let them."

He envisions a day when his people will be free in Christ. "I had a dream ... a dream that heaven was a great desert and in that great desert, we [Tuareg] finally found the freedom we search so desperately for," Muhammad says. "It was so beautiful, and I believe that one day it will come true."

- Order a free resource kit, including video: <http://resources.imb.org/index.cfm/fa/prodlist/CatID/16/DeptID/1.htm>.

- Photos of the Tuareg people: <http://www.tconline.org/Stories/jan02/Tuareg.html>.

- TConline stories about the Tuareg people: <http://www.tconline.org/Stories/jan02/Tuareg.html>.

- PowerPoint slideshow on the Tuareg: [http://www.imb.org/ime/downloads/wpim\\_2.ppt](http://www.imb.org/ime/downloads/wpim_2.ppt).

- Praying for the Tuareg: Pray for more workers in the harvest. With this large people group spread out over many countries, more laborers are needed.

Ask God to open the eyes of the Tuareg to the truth of the gospel and that they will be set free in Christ.

## Missionaries relive kidnapping on mission field

GARLAND, Texas (BP) — Shortly after intruders nabbed Gene and Jean Phillips at their missionary residence in Africa, Christians around the world began praying for the veteran Southern Baptist missionary couple, then living in the small country of Lesotho.

It was the beginning of the Internet era, which helped news about their kidnapping to quickly spread throughout the world. The immediate, worldwide prayer effort culminated in their captors' sudden and dramatic decision to not kill the Phillipses but instead to release them unharmed in a remote, rural area of Africa.

Hours after they learned of the worldwide prayer chain on their behalf, the Phillipses were interviewed by a local law enforcement officer, who wrote in his police report: "They were not killed because of prayer."

For Gene and Jean Phillips, the abduction was another entry into their diary of times when God literally plucked them from the jaws of devastation and refined them through the African fires blazing around them.

"Someone asked us, 'Knowing all you know now after all that's happened, would you still have gone to Lesotho? And would you still have stayed there after your abduction?'" Jean Phillips says. "After thinking for a moment, I answered, 'Yes,' to both questions. You see, souls were saved and seeds planted through our ordeals. We trust God to continue to reap a harvest in Lesotho."

The Phillipses lived through some of the most harrowing moments in African history of the last century — through unthinkable hardships that would have caused most people to abandon their cause. From the Rhodesian civil war to bush-country living, to the abduction in Lesotho that almost took their lives, they

learned the dependability of God's rescue again and again. When all else seemed to fail them, God came through by sparing their lives, answering their prayers, making a way through the darkest nights, meeting their special family needs, and helping them sing praises despite one frightening, traumatic episode after another.

The story of the Phillipses' dramatic abduction and nearly 50 years in Africa is told in a new, page-turning paperback book entitled *Rescue*, released in March by Hannibal Books, an evangelical Christian book-publishing company based in Garland, Texas.

"God continues to use our experiences for his glory," Jean Phillips writes in *Rescue*. "Though we wouldn't have chosen this way for him to be glorified, that's what we want — his glory."

She adds, "We continue our journey, knowing that God is still teaching us — and still rescuing us, and we're still ready to go wherever he leads."

Jean Phillips was appointed a Southern Baptist career missionary in 1956 and served in Rhodesia (later renamed Zimbabwe) for 40 years.

After retirement, she and husband Gene returned to Lesotho and later to Botswana as mission volunteers. In early 2002 they came back to the United States and now make their home in Camden, S.C.

Unlike many promotional stories of missionaries, *Rescue* is a transparent look deep into the Phillipses' lives including days of doubt and personal torment. Jean Phillips candidly and openly shares about struggles family members had in living on two very different continents, facing daily hardships unimaginable to most Americans, and encountering family and interpersonal complications even the most gifted fiction writer would find difficult to create.

*Editor's note: Rescue is available at [www.hannibalbooks.com](http://www.hannibalbooks.com) and toll-free number (800) 747-0738 through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), and will soon be available in Christian and secular bookstores across the country.*



Jean Phillips